

2012 Montana Hunting Regulations

Bison



These regulations and quotas are adopted under the authority granted to the Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commission in MCA 87-1-301, and are valid March 1, 2012 through February 28, 2013. These regulations were adopted by the Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commission on August 2, 2012. The Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commission reserves the authority to amend the seasons, limits and regulations herein if deemed necessary for wildlife management purposes. Joe Maurier, Director.

State and Federal laws, Title VI of Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, age, religion, national origin, or disability. Anyone believing he or she has been discriminated against (as described above) in any Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) program, activity, or facility may write to FWP Personnel Office, 1420 East Sixth Avenue, PO Box 200701, Helena, MT 59620-0701 or the office of Equal Opportunity, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.

Licensing

- A hunter may hold only one bison license.
- Hunters must have applied for a bison license by May 1, 2012:
 - online at the FWP website fwp.mt.gov - (Buy a License) no later than 11:45 p.m. MDT or
 - over-the-counter at any FWP Regional Office, FWP Area Office, and/or the Helena Headquarters by 5 p.m. MDT or
 - by mail. Applications were available at all FWP license providers or on the FWP website at fwp.mt.gov.
- Bison licenses are allotted through a random drawing.
- Successful either-sex bison license applicants and potential cow/calf license holders:
 - will be mailed a hunter orientation DVD and hunters are encouraged to view it before hunting;
 - hunters wishing to hunt bison with **archery** equipment **MUST** complete a mandatory orientation course. Successful bison license applicants will be contacted with details. The course will most likely be held in Bozeman in early October.
 - must purchase a bison license prior to hunting. Bison licenses are available only from FWP Regional Offices, FWP Area Offices, and/or the Helena Headquarters.
 - will be required to possess or purchase a hunter access enhancement fee before hunting.

License cost:	Resident	Nonresident
Conservation	\$8	\$10
Bison License	\$125	\$750
Hunter Access Enhancement Fee	\$2	\$10

- State-issued Tribal licenses will be issued free-of-charge only from FWP Regional Offices, FWP Area Offices, and/or the Helena Headquarters.

Bison License Quota

- A total of 44 either-sex State-issued licenses will be awarded.
- Second Choice only licenses - up to 100 cow/calf State-issued licenses **MAY** be incrementally awarded depending upon bison migration into individual hunting districts.
 - The cow/calf hunter list will be created from the drawing of second choice applicants. If a cow/calf hunt is activated based upon bison migration, cow/calf licenses will be issued to hunters incrementally in sequence drawn.
- Nonresidents are limited to, but not guaranteed, 10 percent of the region's license quota.
- Of the 44 either-sex State-issued licenses, 16 will be awarded to Tribal members in accordance with MCA 87-2-731.
 - Two either-sex licenses will be issued to each Montana Tribe. The

licenses issued to an individual Montana Tribe will be for the same randomly drawn hunting district and time period.

- Any licenses unclaimed after November 1 will be reallocated according to FWP policy.
- In addition to the 44 either-sex State-issued licenses and the potential 100 cow/calf State-issued licenses, Tribal treaty bison hunting may occur concurrently with state bison hunting.

Bison Hunt Areas and Seasons

Bison licenses are valid in:

- The season is November 15, 2012 through February 15, 2013.
- Bison hunt information is available during hunt periods by calling 1-406-994-5700 ext. 5.
- License quotas, hunting district boundaries, and season structure can be modified by FWP Commission authority.
- There are two hunting districts, each with multiple time periods as listed in the regulations below. The two hunt areas are:
 - **HD 385** – Gardiner Basin Portion AND Absaroka Beartooth Portion (wilderness north of Yellowstone National Park including the upper portions of the Hellroaring and Slough Creek drainages). See map, legal descriptions and hunting closures in these regulations.
 - **HD 395** – West Yellowstone Portion AND Cabin Creek Monument Mountain Portion (public land with no cattle allotments in the Cabin Creek Recreation and Wildlife Management Area, the Monument Mountain Unit of the Lee Metcalf Wilderness, and the upper Gallatin River drainage south of the mouth of Taylor Fork). See map, legal descriptions and hunting closures in the legal descriptions in these regulations.
- Hunting is allowed on public land. Hunting is also allowed on private land with landowner permission.
- Hunting is subject to emergency closure in the event it becomes necessary to allow for hazing under the Interagency Bison Management Plan.
- Closure area to protect eagle-nesting sites on National Forest System Lands on Horse Butte Peninsula as posted from Dec. 1 to Aug. 15.

----- HD 385 -----

Note: A cow/calf hunter list will be created from a random drawing of all second choice applicants for HD385. Up to a total of 54 cow/calf licenses for HD 385 may be issued.

385-00: 6 licenses

- Nov 15 - Dec 31 – Either-sex Bison.

385-01: 6 licenses

- Jan 01 - Jan 22 – Either-sex Bison.

385-02: 6 licenses

- Jan 23 - Feb 15 – Either-sex Bison.

385-10: Second Choice only license. See "Note" above.

- Nov 15 - Feb 15 – Cow/calf Bison.

----- HD 395 -----

Note: A cow/calf hunter list will be created from a random drawing of all second choice applicants for HD395. Up to a total of 46 cow/calf licenses for HD 395 may be issued.

395-00: 6 licenses

- Nov 15 - Dec 31 – Either-sex Bison.

395-01: 10 licenses

- Jan 01 - Jan 22 – Either-sex Bison.

395-02: 10 licenses

- Jan 23 - Feb 15 – Either-sex Bison.

395-10: Second Choice only license. See "Note" above.

- Nov 15 - Feb 15 – Cow/calf Bison

General Regulations AND Methods and Means of Hunting

- Hunting is restricted to individuals with licenses issued via a drawing process similar to that employed for other special licenses issued by FWP or as designated by Tribal authority. All licenses are non-transferable.
- General regulations as listed in the 2012 Big Game Deer•Elk•Antelope hunting regulations shall govern the 2012 bison season for all license holders.
- All bison hunters must wear hunter orange as described in 2012 Big Game Deer•Elk•Antelope hunting regulations regardless of season dates.
- Please refer to the 2012 Big Game Deer•Elk•Antelope hunting regulations for a description of firearms and archery equipment.
 - The only means of taking allowed are center-fire rifles and/or archery equipment. Crossbows and muzzleloading black powder rifles are not permitted.
 - Rifles are restricted to center-fire, 150 grain or larger bullet.
- To protect public safety and minimize traffic obstructions, no bison hunting is allowed within 100 yards of major highways.
- Hunting on national forest lands must follow restrictions in USFS order 36 CFR 261.10 (d) (firearm discharges are prohibited within 150 yards of residence, building, campsite, developed recreation site, or occupied area or across a forest service road or body of water).
- Hunting hours authorized for the taking of big game animals begin one-half hour before sunrise and end one-half hour after sunset each day of the hunting season. See official 2012 Sunrise-Sunset Tables in these regulations.
- As adopted under SB395 (MCA 87-2-730) FWP shall not provide actual physical location of wild bison other than the prescribed hunting district where the animal may be taken.
- Hunting shall be only by foot or horseback.
- It is unlawful to possess or transport the fetus or reproductive tissues of a bison away from the kill site. This shall not include specifically minimized tissues naturally attached to the carcass or a portion of the carcass as necessary for evidence of sex as follows:
 - Male: head with horns or penis.
 - Female: head with horns or vulva.

Information and Recommendations

- Bison can achieve a live weight of up to 2,000 pounds, and can be very difficult for the average person to field dress alone. Participants should bring several people with them, or hire an outfitter to assist with the field dressing and handling of their bison. If participants plan to field dress and load their own animal, axes, knives, saws, and block and tackle may be necessary.
- Due to the bison's immense size and thick hide, palatable meat may spoil quickly without immediate and proper care. It is recommended that bison be skinned and quartered within five hours of the kill. The hide should not be left on the bison overnight, even if it is hanging.

Brucellosis

- Bison in Yellowstone National Park carry bacteria that cause a disease known as brucellosis or bang's disease. The disease-causing bacteria can be transmitted from bison to cattle. If domestic cattle are infected, there are negative effects to individual cattle producers in the form of a loss of production, loss of markets, and costly preventative measures, including vaccination. Brucellosis in Yellowstone National Park bison is one of the primary reasons that attempts are being made to control bison in Montana.
- Brucellosis in bison is caused by a bacterium that can also infect humans. In humans, brucellosis is called undulant fever. Symptoms include intermittent fever, chills, night sweats, body aches, poor appetite and weakness. If undulant fever is treated early, it is fairly easy to cure. However, if the disease reaches a chronic stage, treatment is difficult.
- In bison, the bacteria is concentrated in the lymph nodes, reproductive organs and the udder. Cooking destroys bacteria that may be present in the meat. Thus, when thoroughly cooked, the meat is safe to eat.

Common Sense Precautions When Field-Dressing Big Game

- To minimize risk of disease or parasite transmission to humans, follow these proper ways to handle wild meat:
 - Consider every bison to be potentially infected. The results of blood tests show that about 50 percent of the bison are exposed to brucellosis.
 - Always wear protective gloves when dressing carcasses or handling viscera.
 - Minimize contact with animal fluids, brain and spinal tissues.
 - Avoid contact with milk or material from the reproductive tract.
 - Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth until you have scrubbed after handling the animal.
 - Individuals with open sores or cuts on their hands should be especially careful.
 - Discard organ meats.
 - Wash hands and instruments thoroughly after field dressing or processing.
- To minimize risk of disease or parasite transmission to your domestic dog, prevent consumption of big game viscera.

Bison Hunt Legal Descriptions

The following areas are open to bison hunting for the 2012 season.

Note: No hunting within the city limits of West Yellowstone, no hunting within the fenced boundary of the West Yellowstone airport and closure area to protect eagle-nesting sites on National Forest System Lands on Horse Butte Peninsula as posted from Dec. 1 to Aug. 15.

HUNTING DISTRICT 385:

Gardiner Basin Portion – Beginning at the boundary intersection of Yellowstone National Park and the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness just east of Gardiner, then northerly and westerly along said Wilderness boundary to USFS Trail #64 near the Bear Creek campground, then northerly along said trail to the intersection with USFS Trail #62, then northwesterly along USFS Trail #62 to the watershed divide east of Monitor Peak, then northwesterly along the watershed divide over Monitor Peak to Red Mountain, then southwesterly along the watershed divide to Dome Mountain, then southwesterly in a direct line to the bison-resistant cattle guard across U.S. HWY 89 in Yankee Jim Canyon, then southerly in a direct line to crest of watershed divide between Sphinx Creek and Tom Miner Creek Basin, then southerly along the watershed divide over Black Mountain to the boundary of Yellowstone National Park at Shooting Star Mountain, then generally east along the Yellowstone National Park boundary to the boundary intersection of Yellowstone National Park and the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness just east of Gardiner, the point of beginning.

Note: Exception 1, HD 385 Hunting Closure – Beginning at the Junction of U.S. Hwy 89 and Little Trail Creek, then up Little Trail Creek to the posted line (approx. 1/2 mile above U.S. Hwy 89), then southeasterly along said line to the Travertine-Trail Creek Road, then easterly along said road to its intersection with the Gardiner-Jardine Road, then northeasterly along said road to Eagle Creek, then southerly down said creek to the YNP Boundary, then west along said boundary to its intersection with U.S. Hwy 89, then northwesterly along said Hwy to its intersection with Little Trail Creek, the point of beginning.

AND

Absaroka Beartooth Portion (wilderness north of Yellowstone National Park including the upper portions of the Hellroaring and Slough Creek drainages) – The entire Hellroaring, Buffalo Fork, and Slough creeks drainages north of Yellowstone National Park.

HUNTING DISTRICT 395:

West Yellowstone Portion – Beginning at the intersection of Grayling Creek and the Yellowstone National Park Boundary, then south along the Park boundary to its intersection with the south section line of Section 34, T13S, R5E (1/4 mile south of West Yellowstone), then west along said section line to its intersection with USFS Road 1700 (in the southwest corner of said section), then north and west along said road to its intersection with the South Fork of the Madison River, then northwesterly along the east bank of the South Fork of the Madison River to its confluence with Hebgen Lake, then northwest along a straight line across said Lake to the tip of Edwards Peninsula, then northerly

along the west shore of the Horse Butte Peninsula to The Narrows, then northwest along a straight line across The Narrows to the Lakeview Resort, then northeasterly along the private land/USFS boundary to Red Canyon Creek, then north up Red Canyon Creek to the mouth of Coal Canyon Creek, then up Coal Canyon Creek to the top of Graycroft Ridge, then southeasterly to the high point of Graycroft Ridge, then Northeasterly to Johnson Creek outlet at Johnson Lake, then southeast down Johnson Creek to its intersection with Little Tepee Creek Trail (#90), then south along said trail to its intersection with the Whits Lake Road, then northeasterly along said road to the Whits Lake trailhead, then southeasterly down the Whits Lake outlet stream to its confluence with Grayling Creek, then easterly up Grayling Creek to its intersection with the Yellowstone National Park Boundary, the point of beginning.

AND

Cabin Creek Monument Mountain Portion (public land with no cattle allotments in the Cabin Creek Recreation and Wildlife Management Area, the Monument Mountain Unit of the Lee Metcalf Wilderness, and the upper Gallatin River drainage south of the mouth of Taylor Fork) – Beginning at the junction of U.S. Hwy 191 and the road leading to the trailhead for U.S.F.S. Trail 68 located between the mouth of Taylor Fork and Sage Creek, then southeasterly up the Taylor Fork/Sage Creek divide and the Taylor Fork/Beaver and Cabin Creeks divide to the west boundary of the Cabin Creek Recreation and Wildlife Management Area, to include those portions of said area lying south of the above description and including all of the Monument Mountain Unit of the Lee Metcalf Wilderness. The area open to hunting also includes the portion of the Gallatin drainage lying east of the Gallatin River and from Levinsky Ridge south to Yellowstone National Park.

2012 Sunrise-Sunset Tables for Determining Hunting Hours

These tables, including adjustments for daylight savings time, are the official sunrise-sunset tables adopted by the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commission for hunting in Montana. Authorized hunting hours for the taking of bison begin one-half hour before sunrise and end one-half hour after sunset each day of the hunting season. (**Do not use from other sources**).

ZONE 2

INCLUDES: Beaverhead, Broadwater, Cascade, Chouteau, Deer Lodge, Gallatin, Glacier, Hill, Jefferson, Lewis & Clark, Liberty, Madison, Meagher, Park, Pondera, Powell, Silver Bow, Teton and Toole Counties.

	Nov		Dec		Jan		Feb	
	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set
Day	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
01	8:11	6:12	7:52	4:42	8:12	4:52	7:52	5:33
02	8:12	6:11	7:53	4:42	8:12	4:53	7:50	5:34
03	8:14	6:09	7:55	4:42	8:12	4:54	7:49	5:36
04	7:15	5:08	7:56	4:41	8:12	4:55	7:48	5:37
05	7:17	5:06	7:57	4:41	8:12	4:56	7:46	5:39
06	7:18	5:05	7:58	4:41	8:12	4:57	7:45	5:40
07	7:20	5:04	7:59	4:41	8:11	4:58	7:43	5:42
08	7:21	5:02	8:00	4:41	8:11	4:59	7:42	5:43
09	7:22	5:01	8:01	4:41	8:11	5:00	7:41	5:45
10	7:24	5:00	8:02	4:41	8:10	5:02	7:39	5:46
11	7:25	4:59	8:03	4:41	8:10	5:03	7:38	5:48
12	7:27	4:57	8:04	4:41	8:10	5:04	7:36	5:49
13	7:28	4:56	8:04	4:41	8:09	5:05	7:34	5:51
14	7:30	4:55	8:05	4:41	8:08	5:07	7:33	5:52
15	7:31	4:54	8:06	4:41	8:08	5:08	7:31	5:54
16	7:33	4:53	8:07	4:41	8:07	5:09	7:30	5:55
17	7:34	4:52	8:07	4:42	8:06	5:11	7:28	5:57
18	7:35	4:51	8:08	4:42	8:06	5:12	7:26	5:58
19	7:37	4:50	8:09	4:43	8:05	5:13	7:25	6:00
20	7:38	4:49	8:09	4:43	8:04	5:15	7:23	6:01
21	7:40	4:48	8:10	4:44	8:03	5:16	7:21	6:03
22	7:41	4:48	8:10	4:44	8:02	5:18	7:19	6:04
23	7:42	4:47	8:11	4:45	8:01	5:19	7:18	6:06
24	7:44	4:46	8:11	4:45	8:00	5:21	7:16	6:07
25	7:45	4:45	8:11	4:46	7:59	5:22	7:14	6:09
26	7:46	4:45	8:12	4:47	7:58	5:24	7:12	6:10
27	7:47	4:44	8:12	4:47	7:57	5:25	7:11	6:12
28	7:49	4:44	8:12	4:48	7:56	5:27	7:09	6:13
29	7:50	4:43	8:12	4:49	7:55	5:28		
30	7:51	4:43	8:12	4:50	7:54	5:30		
31			8:12	4:51	7:53	5:31		

Contacts

Bison hunt information is available by calling 1-406-994-5700 ext. 5.

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks State Headquarters

1420 East 6th Avenue, PO Box 200701,
Helena, MT 59620-0701406-444-2535

Hunter Education.....406-444-9948
Wildlife Bureau406-444-2612
Enforcement Bureau.....406-444-2452
Parks Division (Montana State Parks).....406-444-3750
Special drawings406-444-2950
Resident and nonresident licensing.....406-444-2535
Telephone Device for the Deaf406-444-1200

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Regional Headquarters



REGION 1

490 N Meridian Rd
Kalispell, MT 59901
(406) 752-5501

LEWISTOWN Area Res
Office (LARO)
215 W Aztec Dr
PO Box 938
Lewistown, MT 59457
(406) 538-4658

REGION 2

3201 Spurgin Rd
Missoula, MT 59804
(406) 542-5500

REGION 3

1400 South 19th Ave
Bozeman, MT 59718-5496
(406) 994-4042

REGION 5

2300 Lake Elmo Dr
Billings, MT 59105
(406) 247-2940

HELENA Area Res Office
(HARO)
930 Custer Ave W
Helena, MT 59620
(406) 495-3260

REGION 6

54078 US Hwy 2 E
Glasgow, MT 59230
(406) 228-3700

BUTTE Area Res Office
(BARO)
1820 Meadowlark Ln
Butte, MT 59701
(406) 494-1953

HAVRE Area Res Office
(HVARO)
2165 Hwy 2 E
Havre, MT 59501
(406) 265-6177

REGION 4

4600 Giant Springs Rd
Great Falls, MT 59405
(406) 454-5840

REGION 7

352 I-94 Business Loop
PO Box 1630
Miles City, MT 59301
(406)234-0900

Contacts Outside Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Montana State Agencies

Agriculture
406-444-3144
Guides & Outfitters
406-841-2373
Livestock
406-444-7323
State Lands
406-444-2074
Tourism
406-841-2795

Land Maps

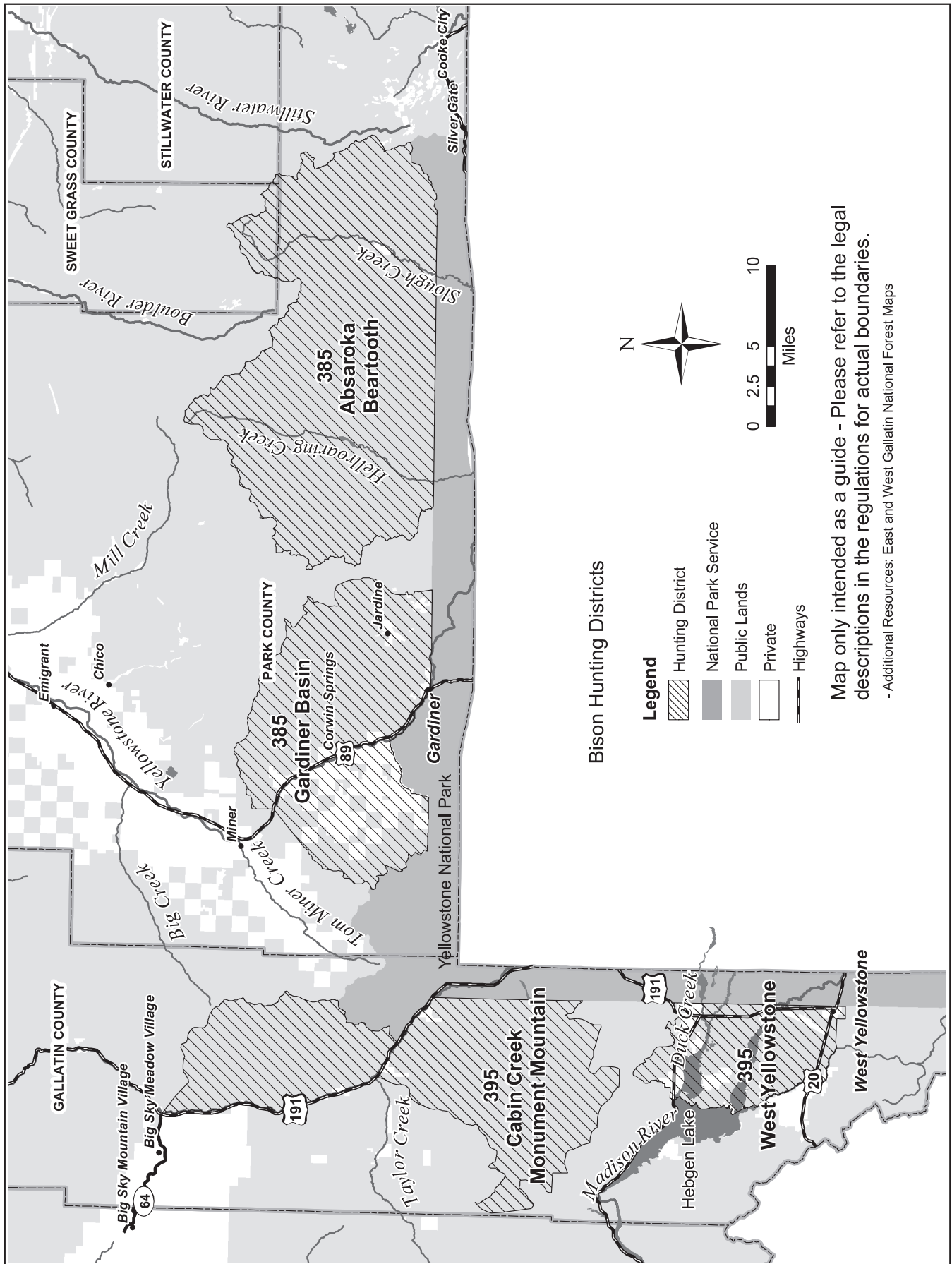
Bureau of Land Management
406-896-5000
Topographical (USGS)
888-275-8747

Tribal Lands

Blackfeet Reservation
406-338-7276
Crow Reservation
406-638-2601
Flathead Reservation
406-675-2700
Fort Belknap
406-353-2205
Fort Peck Reservation
406-768-5305
Northern Cheyenne Reservation
406-477-8844
Rocky Boy Reservation
406-395-4207

Federal Agencies

US Department of Interior
202-208-3100
US Fish & Wildlife Service
406-449-5225
US Forest Service
406-449-5201
Bureau of Land Management
406-896-5000
National Weather Service
406-329-4840 (Missoula)



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